Vol. 2, No. 5 www.LPLNewsWire.net May 2026 | FREE

LPL NewsWire
Telling Our Stories. Shaping Our Communities.

Mariachi Vargas in Detroit, May 9th

See page 3

Cristo Rey Fiesta

See page 7

NFL Draft

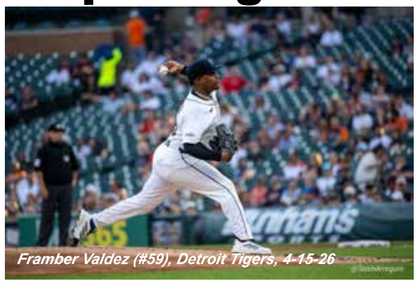
See pages 12 & 13

Michigan Men's Basketball Wins NCAA Title

See page 15

Tigers Grind Through April, Bats Heat Up in Tight Central Race

Kenley Jansen (#74), Detroit Tigers, 4-14-26


Framber Valdez (#59), Detroit Tigers, 4-15-26

Javier Baez (#28), Detroit Tigers, 4-15-26

By Larry Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 27, 2026

DETROIT, MI — The Detroit Tigers have battled through the opening month of the season and hold a 15-14 record, sitting in a tie for 1st place in the American League Central Division as of April 27.

With the month still in progress and three road games remaining against the Atlanta Braves, Detroit has positioned itself well heading into the closing stretch of April.

It has been a month of momentum swings, timely hitting, strong starting pitching, and a clubhouse that keeps answering the bell. Detroit took some early punches, but by late April the Tigers were playing sharper baseball and staying squarely in the division race.

Detroit dropped the opener against the Arizona Diamondbacks, then took two of three in the home-opening set against the St. Louis Cardinals. A tough four-game skid in Minnesota tested the club, but the Tigers came roaring back once they returned to Comerica Park.

Keider Montero (#54), Detroit Tigers, 4-21-26

The Tigers swept the Miami Marlins, then kept the brooms out by sweeping the Kansas City Royals. La Prensa Latina News Wire was on hand April 14 and April 15 to witness Detroit stack wins at home.

Detroit then split a four-game set on the road against the Boston Red Sox before taking two of three from the Milwaukee Brewers back in Detroit. La Prensa Latina News Wire also covered April 21 and April 22 during that series.

After dropping two of three in Cincinnati, Detroit now heads south for its final April road test in Atlanta.

Torkelson on a Heater

Slugging first baseman Spencer Torkelson (#20) has caught absolute fire. As of April 27, Torkelson has homered in five consecutive games, one of the hottest streaks in Major League Baseball.

He has been barreling baseballs, punishing mistakes, and changing games with one swing. Torkelson entered the week with 5 home runs, 21 hits, 17 walks, and an .836 OPS, proving he is becoming the middle-of-the-order force Detroit envisioned.

Young Bats Setting the Table

Detroit's lineup has received a major spark from rising infielder Kevin McGonigle (#7), who is slashing .330 with 35 hits, 11 doubles, 2 triples, and a .951 OPS.

Star outfielder Riley Greene (#31) continues to be the engine of the offense, hitting .301 with 31 hits, 19 runs scored, and an .866 OPS.

Kerry Carpenter (#30) has supplied pop with 6 home runs and 17 RBI, while catcher Dillon Dingler added 5 homers and 19 RBI.

Infielder Colt Keith (#33) quietly pieced together a strong month at .317.

Latino Presence Making an Impact

Veteran shortstop Javier Báez (#28) continues to bring energy, flair, and elite defense while hitting .263 with 20 hits.

Left-hander Framber Valdez (#59) has been a key rotation arm, going 2-1 with a 3.41 ERA over six starts, giving Detroit another dependable veteran presence.

Arms Winning Ballgames

Ace Tarik Skubal (#29) has looked every bit the stopper, posting a 3-2 record, 2.72 ERA, and 38 strikeouts.

Casey Mize (#12) has also dealt, working to a 2.51 ERA with 32 strikeouts.

The bullpen has closed doors late, led by closer Kenley Jansen (#74) with 6 saves, while Kyle Finnegan (#67) has been lights out with a 0.66 ERA.

Final Word

The Tigers have not played perfect baseball in April, but they have played resilient baseball. They've flashed power, depth, young talent, veteran leadership, and enough grit to be tied atop the Central with games still left to play this month.

If Detroit keeps getting quality starts, timely knocks, and a red-hot Torkelson, this club could be built to stay in the race all summer.

Follow La Prensa All Season

La Prensa Latina News Wire will be back at Comerica Park in May and throughout the season, bringing exclusive Tigers coverage, photos, and updates from the ballpark. Be sure to follow us on social media and visit our website for the latest news, highlights, and your chance to win tickets and Tigers memorabilia.

Instagram: LPL_NewsWire
X: @LPL_NewsWire
#LPL_NewsWire

Spencer Torkelson (#20), Detroit Tigers 4-22-26

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán Set to Bring 'The Mexico Sound' to Detroit on May 9

By Larry Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 23, 2026

DETROIT, MI — Following a heartfelt conversation with La Prensa Latina News Wire, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán guitarist and vocalist Jonathan Palomar made one thing clear: when the world-famous ensemble arrives at the Detroit Opera House on May 9, audiences can expect far more than a concert.

They can expect an experience.

"Allow yourselves to live the mariachi… the Mexico sound," Palomar said. "You don't need translation. Just by listening to the musical notes, you're going to feel all the emotion and the message."

For many in Michigan, the return of Mariachi Vargas is long awaited. Palomar recalled previous visits to Ann Arbor several years ago and said the group is eager to reconnect with Midwest audiences after years of touring more heavily through Texas, California, and the southern United States.

A Legacy of Excellence

Palomar's place within Mariachi Vargas is rooted in musical bloodlines. His father, Rafael Palomar, performed with the group for more than two decades, while his grandfather, Román Palomar, wrote the celebrated cumbia "El Mariachi Loco."

Jonathan joined Mariachi Vargas in 2017 and has earned acclaim for his stirring performances, including his interpretation of "Llamarada."

Tradition Meets New Energy

While Mariachi Vargas remains synonymous with timeless classics such as "Son de la Negra," Palomar said the 2026 production will also include newer music designed to connect with younger listeners.

"We always try to evolve," he said. "We bring the songs people love, but we also bring new music for younger ears because we want mariachi music to keep growing."

That effort is paying off. Palomar noted that mariachi education programs in schools across Texas, Nevada, California, and Colorado are helping create a younger generation of fans.

More Than a Show

Unlike smaller mariachi groups, Mariachi Vargas performs with 14 musicians on stage, creating the full traditional sound through violins, trumpets, guitars, vihuela, guitarrón, and multiple vocalists.

But what separates the ensemble, according to Palomar, is audience chemistry.

"We want them to sing with us, whistle, dance, and be part of the show," he said. "That interaction is what makes people want to come back."

Detroit Connection

Palomar also shared admiration for Detroit sports culture, calling himself a fan of the Detroit Lions and remembering Mexican-born former Detroit Tigers standout Aurelio Rodríguez.

Now, with downtown Detroit thriving and the Opera House continuing to host world-class performances, the timing feels right for one of Mexico's most iconic musical groups to return.

Don't Miss It

For longtime mariachi lovers, newcomers, families, and music fans of every background, May 9 promises a night of heritage, passion, and celebration in the heart of Detroit.

Mariachi music may come from Mexico—but as Palomar said, its message is universal.

Mariachi Vargas at Detroit Opera House—Mother's Day Celebration
Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Street, Detroit
Saturday, May 9, 2026, 7:30pm
Tickets: Ticketmaster and Detroit Opera box office (in person and at detroitopera.org)

About Detroit Opera

Detroit Opera is a national leader in the arts, embodying the innovative spirit and diverse perspectives of our city. We weave together incredible artistry, spellbinding drama, magical stagecraft, and stories that hit home—all in a historic, spectacular venue. Detroit Opera aspires to influence the future of opera and dance, creating an ambitious standard for American opera and dance that emphasizes community, accessibility, artistic risk-taking, and collaboration. Founded in 1971 as Michigan Opera Theatre by the late Dr. David DiChiera, Detroit Opera is led by President and CEO Patty Isacson Sabee, Barbara Walkowski Artistic Director Yuval Sharon, Music Director Roberto Kalb, Artistic Advisor for Dance Jon Teeuwissen, and Board Chairman Ethan Davidson.

For more information, visit www.detroitopera.org. Follow the company on Facebook and Instagram (@DetroitOpera) and LinkedIn (Detroit Opera).

LPL NewsWire
Telling Our Stories. Shaping Our Communities.

Larry Arreguin - Managing Editor / Photojournalist
Aaron Arreguin - Photojournalist
Sophie Hernandez - General Sales / Distribution

Advertise Your Business!
Contact Sophie Hernandez or Larry Arreguin at 313.571-5447

Email us at: larry@lplnewswire.net
www.LPLNewsWire.net
© TeamArreguin, all rights reserved.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in articles, columns, and other content are those of the individual contributors and do not represent the official views of La Prensa Latina News Wire or its affiliates. Some material may be assisted by artificial intelligence; while efforts are made to ensure accuracy, La Prensa Latina News Wire is not responsible for errors or misinterpretations in AI-generated content.

Earth Day Cleanup Draws 200+ Volunteers to Corktown, Removes Nearly 1,200 Pounds of Trash

By Aaron Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 23, 2026

DETROIT, MI — More than 200 volunteers gathered in Corktown for a major Earth Day neighborhood cleanup hosted by The Clean Up Club, removing nearly 1,200 pounds of trash while continuing a growing tradition of service, civic pride, and environmental action.

Founded to inspire cleaner neighborhoods and stronger communities, The Clean Up Club has become known for organizing community-led cleanups that unite residents, businesses, and volunteers with a shared goal of creating healthier public spaces. Through regular events across Metro Detroit and beyond, the organization promotes neighborhood pride, environmental stewardship, and meaningful local engagement.

With support from Credit Union One and Cold Truth Soft Serve, volunteers spread throughout Corktown collecting litter, improving streetscapes, and helping preserve one of Detroit's most historic districts.

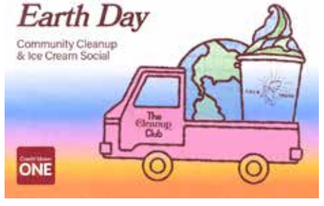
This marked the second annual Earth Day cleanup hosted by the group, drawing even more participants than the inaugural event. A special appearance from Terrion Arnold of the Detroit Lions added excitement and visibility to the day's mission.

Earth Day began in 1970, when millions of Americans joined demonstrations, cleanups, and educational events calling for stronger environmental protections. The movement helped spark the modern environmental era and led to major reforms including the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and new clean air and water standards. Today, Earth Day is observed worldwide every April 22.

The organization is already looking ahead to several upcoming volunteer opportunities, including:

* May 16 (10 a.m.–Noon): Little Village Detroit Community Cleanup
* May 17 (9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.): Ferndale Cleanup & Meditation
* June 28 (10 a.m.–Noon): Clinton River Spillway Cleanup at Tucker Sr. Center parking lot

Those interested in participating or learning more about future cleanups can visit The Clean Up Club events page online.



Whitecaps Stay in Race After Productive April, Enter May Just One Game Back

Woody Hadeen (#6), Whitecaps, 4-7-26

Cristian Santana (#8), Whitecaps, 4-9-26

Garrett Pennington (#33), Whitecaps Game 1, 4-17-26

René Rivera (#44), Whitecaps, Game 1, 4-17-26

LPL News Wire Staff | April 27, 2026

COMSTOCK PARK, MI — The West Michigan Whitecaps closed April at 12-9, just one game out of first place in the Midwest League East after a strong opening month fueled by timely hitting and solid series wins.

West Michigan opened the season with a 1-0 road win, then took a 2-1 series victory over the Lake County Captains. After falling 7-3 in the home opener to the Great Lakes Loons, the Whitecaps later caught fire on the road and swept the Lansing Lugnuts 6-0.

La Prensa Latina News Wire was present during the home series against Great Lakes on April 7 and April 9, and also attended the first game of the doubleheader in Lansing.

April Offensive Leaders

Several Whitecaps hitters ranked among Midwest League leaders entering print:

* Garrett Pennington (#33), 1B, posted 5 home runs and 16 RBIs, both tied for 4th in the league, while adding 7 doubles, tied for 3rd.
* Ricardo Hurtado (#24), C, drew 10 walks, tied for 10th in the league.
* Patrick Lee (#12), RF, recorded 8 stolen bases, tied for 6th in the league.
* Roberto Campos (#11), RF, carried a .321 batting average, tied for 21st in the league.

The combination of power, discipline, speed, and contact hitting has West Michigan positioned to make noise heading into May.

Next up is a six-game road trip against the Cedar Rapids Kernels before returning home on Cinco de Mayo.

May Home Promotions

* May 8 & 9 — Bluey and Bingo appearances
* May 10 — Paint the Park Pink Night
* May 22 — Princess & Pirates Night with family dance
* May 23 — Kevin McGonigle bobblehead giveaway
* May 24 — Military Appreciation Night with fireworks
* June 7 — First Calaveras game of the season

Follow #LPL_NewsWire for updates and chances to win tickets and memorabilia throughout the season.

April Home Games

vs. Dayton Dragons
Tue, May 5 — 6:35 PM
Wed, May 6 — 6:05 PM
Thu, May 7 — 11:00 AM
Fri, May 8 — 6:35 PM
Sat, May 9 — 2:00 PM
Sun, May 10 — 2:00 PM

vs. South Bend Cubs
Tue, May 19 — 6:05 PM
Wed, May 20 — 11:00 AM
Thu, May 21 — 6:35 PM
Fri, May 22 — 6:35 PM
Sat, May 23 — 7:05 PM
Sun, May 24 — 6:35 PM

Patrick Lee (#12), Whitecaps, Game 1, 4-17-26

Whitecaps fan, with replica Championship Ring, 4-7-26

Whitecaps Fans, showing off foul balls, 4-9-26

NUESTRA COMUNIDAD EN MOVIMIENTO

Connecting Latinos in Michigan with events, resources and opportunities.

With April now here and the baseball season officially underway across Michigan, communities are embracing the energy and renewal that come with spring. From Opening Day excitement to neighborhood gatherings, Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations continue to bring people together through events that celebrate culture, connection, and shared purpose. As bats crack and ballparks come alive, this season reflects both the return of baseball and the vibrant spirit of Latino community life statewide. The following listings highlight upcoming activities that capture that momentum and diversity.

WEST MICHIGAN

Hispanic Center Food Distribution (Monthly) www.hispanic-center.org | feedwm.org/findfood

Feeding America Mobile Pantries (Monthly). feedwm.org/findfood

West Michigan Hispanic Chamber Annual Awards Gala, Grand Rapids, May 21. www.westmihcc.org/events/annual-awards-gala/

Tulip Time Festival 2026, Holland, May1-10. www.tuliptime.com

GREATER LANSING

Salinaz Promotions - Grupo Dezeo - REO Clubhouse, Lansing, May 2. 517.803-9239.

Salinaz Promotions Cinco de Mayo Celebration - Lansing Shuffle, May 3. https://www.facebook.com/events/lansing-shuffle

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, K of C #788, Lansing, May 5.

5 De Mayo Party, Mac's Bar, Lansing, May 5.

47th Annual Cristo Rey Church Fiesta! - Lansing, May 22-24. https://www.cristoreychurch.org/cristo-rey-fiesta-2022

FireKeepers Casino 400 - Jackson, June 7. www.mispeedway.com

LPGA - Dow Championship, Midland, June 8-14. www.dowchampionship.com

3rd Annual Lansing Fiesta - Adado Riverfront Park, Lansing, June 18-21. www.LansingFiesta.com

LLEAD Biennial State Conference - MI Voz/Mi Pueblo; Advancing Civic Participation & Policy Change, Lansing, MI, Oct 9, www.LLEAD.org

FLINT/SAGINAW/BAY CITY

Saginaw's 47th Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival, Saginaw, May 2. www.saginawunioncivica.com

Michigan Arsenal Arena Football - Saginaw, May 2. www.michiganarsenal.com

Cinco de Mayo Gran Baile (Motivo) - Union Civica, Saginaw, May 2.

DETROIT / SE MICHIGAN

Catholic Charities Aid - Detroit, (Monthly). www.ccsem.org

Lucha Fest, Ferndale, May 2 & 3. www.mezcalferndale.com

Detroit Cinco de Mayo Parade - Detroit, May 3. www.detroitcincodemayoparade.com

Cinco De Mayo 2025 @ Level Two, Greektown, Detroit, May 5. 313.420-1990

Detroit Grand Prix - Detroit, May 29-31. www.detroitgp.com

2026 Rocket Classic - Detroit Golf Club, July 30-Aug. 2. www.rocketclassic.com

Aramco LIV Golf Michigan - Plymouth, Aug 27-30.

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY | OCTOBER 9, 2026
LLEAD PRESENTS: MI VOZ/MI PUEBLO
ADVANCING CIVIC PARTICIPATION & POLICY CHANGE
mark your calendar!
WWW.LLEAD.ORG - REGISTRATION COMING SOON

SALINAZ PROMOTIONS PRESENTS
GRUPO DEZEO
SATURDAY 02 MAY
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
DANCE 8PM TO 12AM
REO CLUBHOUSE
1314 S. WASHINGTON AVE. LANSING, MI
2ND FLOOR BALLROOM
$15 TICKETS IN ADVANCE | $20 AT THE DOOR
- VIP TABLES AVAILABLE -
TICKET INFO CALL (517)803-9239

RITMO Y RAICES

Highlighting the artists, bands, DJs, and sounds shaping our community.

47th Annual Cristo Rey Fiesta Returns to Lansing This Memorial Day Weekend

LANSING, MI — One of Mid-Michigan's anticipated cultural celebrations returns as the 47th Annual Cristo Rey Fiesta takes place May 22, 23, and 24, 2026 at the church grounds, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing.

For nearly five decades, the Cristo Rey Fiesta has served as a gathering and fundraiser supporting church outreach programs. Thousands are expected to attend the three-day event, recognized as a premier Latino festival.

Visitors can enjoy authentic foods including chicken gorditas, street tacos, nachos, fajita tacos, barbacoa tacos, menudo, pizza, rice and beans, soft drinks, and aguas frescas. The Garden Tent will also feature adult beverages and frozen drinks.

Entertainment through the weekend will showcase traditional music and dance celebrating Latino culture. Guests can also explore the Mercado, where vendors from Michigan and beyond, will offer clothing, arts, crafts, and specialty items.

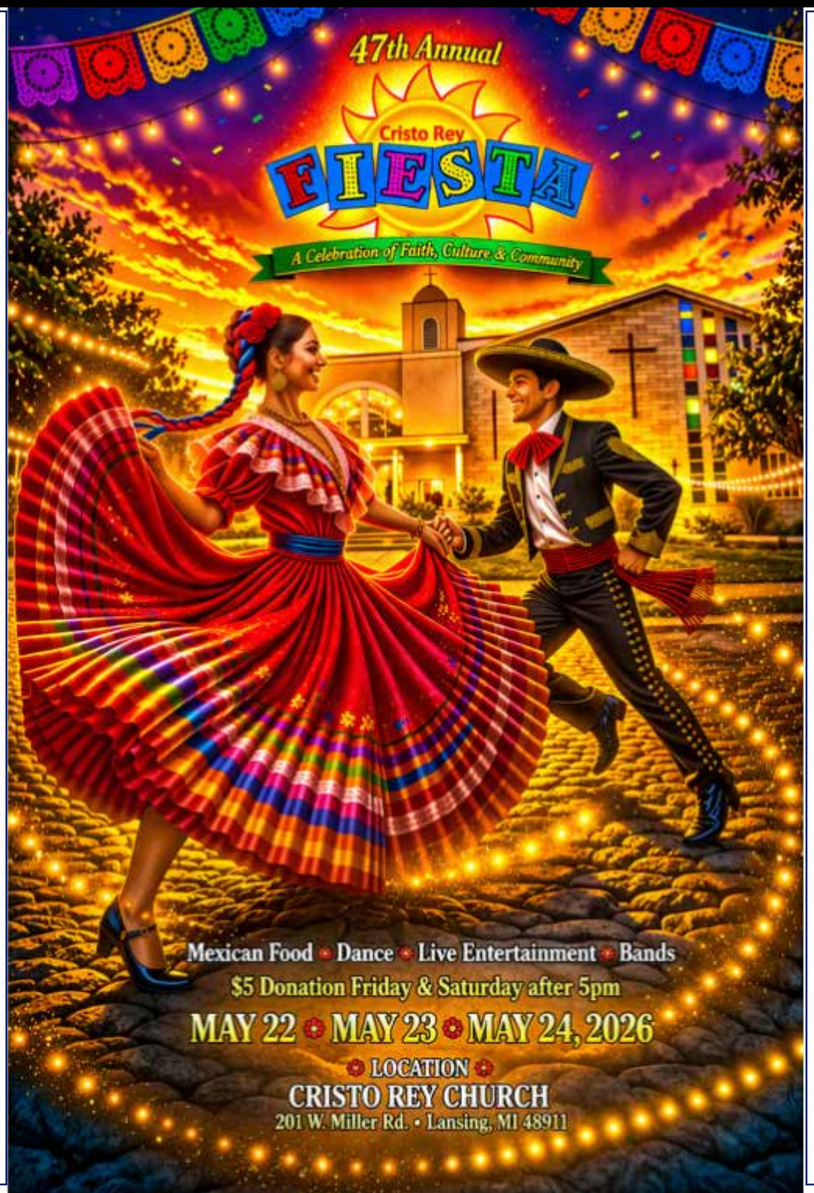
Families with children will enjoy a carnival by Mason Rail Time Adventures. Community members can also visit booths featuring businesses, organizations, and providers.

A special highlight will be the Salute to Veterans Ceremony, honoring fallen heroes, veterans, active service members, and public safety personnel. The ceremony follows Mass on Sunday.

Since 1979, the Cristo Rey Fiesta has helped strengthen cultural identity while supporting community programs such as housing assistance, food distribution, senior meals, holiday baskets, clinics, and referrals.

La Prensa Latina News Wire encourages the community to enjoy a weekend filled with culture, food, music, and tradition.

#LPL_NewsWire


47th Annual
Cristo Rey
FIESTA
A Celebration of Faith, Culture & Community
Mexican Food • Dance • Live Entertainment • Bands
$5 Donation Friday & Saturday after 5pm
MAY 22 • MAY 23 • MAY 24, 2026
LOCATION
CRISTO REY CHURCH
201 W. Miller Rd. • Lansing, MI 48911

2026 Line-Up

Friday, May 22

4:00 - Gates Open
5:00 - Welcome Guillermo Z. López, Fiesta Director, Fr. Vincent Richardson, Pastor and Andy Schor, Mayor of Lansing
National Anthem - Norma Patricia Contreras
5:25 - 5:45 - ***Ballet María Luz***
5:45 - Break
6:00 - 7:00 - ***Mariachi Estudiantil***
7:00 - 8:00 - Contest With DJ
8:00 - Break
8:30 - 10:45 - ***Simplemente Knueve***
11:00 Good Night

Saturday, May 23

11:00 - Gates Open
12:00 - Welcome: Guillermo Z. Lopez, Fiesta Director, Fr. Vincent Richardson, Pastor and Trini Lopez Pehlivanoglu, VP Lansing City Council
12:15 - 12:35 - MC Felipe Palacio, Jr.
12:40 - 12:45 - ***El Grupo Fiesta***
12:50 - 1:10 - *Greater Lansing Area Ballet Folklorico*
1:15 - 1:45 - Fashion Parade/Defile de Modas
1:45 - Break
2:30 - 5:00 - ***Latin Soul***
5:00 - Break
5:30 - 8:00 - ***Alma Musical Grupo***
8:00 - Break
8:30 - 10:50 - ***La Nueva Onda***
11:00 Good Night!

Sunday, May 24

10:00 - Gates Open
11:00 - MISA/ MASS
1:30 - 2:00 Welcome & Salute to Veterans, Presentation of Colors - Knight of Columbus Color Guard
National Anthem - Amanda Cena
Poema/Poem - *Sabes Que/ Do You Know?*, Cruz Villarreal
2:05 - 2:10 - *Los Seniors de Cristo Rey*
2:10 - 2:20 - *Los Niños de Cristo Rey*
2:15 - 2:35 - ***Fantasía Ballet Folklórico***
2:35 - Break
2:50 - 3:20 - *Grupo Cristo Rey*
3:20 - Break
3:30 - 4:00 - ***Chema y Sus Muchachos***
4:00 - Break
4:30 - 6:00 - ***Tejano Sound Band***
6:00 - Raffle
6:15 - 7:00 - ***Tejano Sound Band***
7:00 - End of Fiesta!

$5 Donation Fri and Sat after 5 pm
Persons under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult family member.

Schedule is subject to change

Yaxel Lendeborg
University of Michigan

Legacy Defends Home Turf, Rolls Past Mercenaries 25-6 in Season Opener

Lauryn Ward (#0), Lansing Legacy

Alexis Johnson (#7), Lansing Legacy

By Larry Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 25, 2026

LANSING, MI — The Lansing Legacy opened its home schedule in impressive fashion, defeating the Michigan Mercenaries 25-6 in women's tackle football action and giving the home crowd plenty to cheer about.

Quarterback Brittany Mayer (#19) led the Legacy offense with a sharp performance through the air, tossing touchdown passes to Elizabeth Speaks (#3), Alexis Johnson (#7), and Haley Dutton (#9). Her steady leadership helped Lansing control the tempo throughout the contest.

Speaks (#3) was one of the night's top performers, scoring twice for the Legacy. She opened Lansing's scoring with a rushing touchdown, then later added a touchdown reception from Mayer (#19) to extend the advantage.

Johnson (#7) and Dutton (#9) each added receiving touchdowns as the Legacy offense continued to pile on points and keep the Mercenaries defense on its heels.

The Mercenaries broke through late in the game for their lone score. With less than three minutes remaining, Kaci Cunningham (#0) connected with Jessikah McKenzie (#34) for a touchdown pass, trimming the deficit to the final 25-6 margin.

With the victory, Lansing begins the season with momentum and now turns its attention to a road matchup against the Indiana Valor.

The Legacy then return home on May 16 to host the Columbus Chaos in what promises to be another exciting showdown.

La Prensa Latina News Wire will be on hand to provide full coverage of the May 16 home game.

Brittany Mayer (#19), Lansing Legacy

Brynn Pline (#25), Lansing Legacy

MOC
MICHIGAN ORTHOPEDIC CENTER
Tammy A. Woods, MD
Board Certified & Fellowship Trained
Hand Surgeon - Hand & Wrist Specilist
Dr. Woods Specializes In:
• Carpal Tunnel Syndrome - Tendon Injury
• Wrist Fractures - Trigger Finger,
• Fingertip Injury - Hand Fractures,
• Wrist Pain - Tendonitis & More
www.michiganortho.com
PHONE: (517) 923-3104 | FAX: (517) 26-1877
3404 Patient Care Drive, Lansing MI 48911

Alexis Johnson (#7), Lansing Legacy

Lansing Legacy Fan

UCLA Star Gabriela Jaquez Picked Fifth Overall in WNBA Draft

The Jaquez family: Marcos, Gabriela, her parents Angela and Jaime Jaquez Sr. at The Shed at Hudson Yards in New York during the WNBA Draft. Photo courtesy of Jaime Jaquez Sr.

Gabriela Jaquez and her parents Angela, left, Jaime Jaquez Sr. and younger brother Marcos sit together at The Shed at Hudson Yards in New York during the WNBA Draft. Photo courtesy of Jaime Jaquez Sr.

By José de Jesus Ortiz, Founder & Editor in Chief | Our Esquina | April 14, 2026 | Special to LPL News Wire

As Gabriela Jaquez walked up to the stage after being selected fifth overall in the WNBA Draft, her immediate family cheered loudly from their table at The Shed at Hudson Yards in New York.

"That's my sister! That's my sister," Marcos Jaquez yelled while sitting next to his parents Jaime Jaquez Sr. and Angela Jaquez. The elder Jaquez held up his smart phone so Miami Heat forward Jaime Jaquez Jr. could take in the moment via FaceTime.

Almost three years after Gabriela, Marcos and their parents attended the NBA Draft to support Jaime Jr. when he was drafted 18th overall by the Miami Heat, the entire family was together to support Gabriela even if that meant via FaceTime for Jaime Jr.

Gabriela Jaquez was the second of a record five UCLA players drafted in the first round of the WNBA Draft. A sixth member of the 2026 national champions was picked in the second round, giving the Bruins the most players taken in a single WNBA Draft.

'Ultimate pride'

"It's the ultimate pride," Jaime Jaquez Sr. said. "As you know, family is very, very big in our culture. There was a big old watch party in Camarillo (Calif.) also. I wanted (Jaime Jr.) to be a part of it. Unfortunately for him, he couldn't be there in person."

Gabriela Jaquez, who was born in Camarillo to a Mexican American dad and an Anglo mother, made history when she was picked fifth overall Monday night. She became just the third player of Mexican descent to be drafted in the WNBA.

Moreover, she helped the Jaquez family complete the ultimate basketball double-double. The Jaquez are the first set of Mexican American siblings to be drafted by the NBA and WNBA.

"I'm really thankful that me and my brother can represent the whole Latino community," Gabriela Jaquez said. "Obviously being from Mexican descent it's just really important for us to share our culture. And again all these records are great, but for me (I'm) really excited for this new opportunity. To play in the WNBA and for the Chicago Sky will be a lot of fun."

Gabriela Jaquez, 22, capped off a sensational college career by leading UCLA to the NCAA Tournament National Championship. The 6-foot guard-forward led the Bruins with 21 points in the rout over South Carolina in the National Championship after shutting down Texas star Madison Booker in the semifinal.

She averaged 13.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game as a senior to finish her four-year career with an average of 10.1 points and 5 rebounds per game.

Along the way, she proudly embraced the opportunity to inspire Mexican girls and boys and Latinos in general.

Proving Mexicans belong

"Mexicans can also be on the stage," Jaime Sr. said.

The Sky are in a bit of a transition after trading away former LSU star Angel Reese earlier this month. As Gabriela Jaquez showed at the Final Four, she can do almost everything on the court.

She can run the point, grab rebounds, shoot 3-pointers and drive to the basket. Defensively, she's a menace as well.

Gabriela Jaquez is smart, articulate and charismatic. She can stifle one of the biggest stars in the NCAA one moment, as she did against Texas' Booker, and then perform in a dance routine with the UCLA cheerleaders, as she did multiple times this year.

Gabriela Jaquez was a multi-sport letterman at Camarillo High before making a brief cameo on the UCLA softball team as a sophomore. As her brother showed while leading UCLA's men to the Final Four in 2021, the Jaquez kids also have a large support system. Angela Jaquez's family isn't as big as Jaime Sr.'s family, but they are just as supportive.

With roots in Jalisco, Mexico, the Jaquezes are a large and loud bunch. While Jaime Sr., Angela and Marcos joined Gabriela in New York, close to 60 friends and relatives gathered at a Camarillo restaurant to see where Gabriela would be drafted.

'So surreal'

In a beautiful, long, black gown, Gabriela arrived at the draft with plenty of anticipation. She was excited to see where she would land. Gabriela didn't have to wait long.

"Then obviously when I heard my name called it was so surreal," she said. "I know where I'm going, know what team I'm going to be on, where I'm going to move. That was obviously great.

"I'm just so excited to play for Chicago. To have my parents there, my younger brother Marcos with us was super amazing cheering super loud. Then obviously my older brother joined in on FaceTime, which really meant a lot."

As usual, Jaime Sr. and Angela Jaquez had their children together supporting each other.

"I'm extremely proud of her to see her realize her dreams," Jaime Sr. said. "As you know, she wrote down those dreams at a basketball camp in third or fourth grade."

Mendoza Headlines 2026 NFL Draft As Latino Talent Shines in Historic First Round

LPL News Wire Staff | April 25, 2026

LANSING, MI — The 2026 NFL Draft delivered one of the most exciting and culturally significant first rounds in recent memory, with Latino athletes making major headlines while powerhouse college programs sent stars to the next level.

Fernando Mendoza (#15), Indiana

The night began with Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza going No. 1 overall to the Las Vegas Raiders, marking a milestone moment for Latino representation at football's most important position.

For La Prensa Latina News Wire, the first round also felt personal. Our publication covered Mendoza, Jeremiyah Love, Makai Lemon, Omar Cooper Jr., and Jadarian Price during their college careers. Watching those players hear their names called was a reminder that Saturdays can quickly become Sundays.

La Prensa Covered These Future First-Rounders

Fernando Mendoza – Indiana QB

La Prensa was on hand when Indiana faced Michigan State Spartans football. Mendoza showed command of the offense, quick decision-making, and confidence attacking multiple levels of the field. He looked every bit like a future pro quarterback, directing traffic pre-snap and keeping calm when pressure arrived.

Jeremiyah Love, Notre Dame

Jeremiyah Love – Notre Dame RB

During Notre Dame's matchup with Texas A&M Aggies football, Love flashed elite acceleration and home-run speed. He showed patience behind blocks, then exploded through the second level once lanes opened. His balance through contact and ability to make defenders miss in space separated him from most backs in the country.

Love also impressed in pass protection and as a receiver, proving he is more than a ball carrier. Modern NFL teams value complete backs, and Love repeatedly showed that skill set.

KC Concepcion – WR (#24 - 1st Round - Cleveland Browns)

KC Concepcion became known for toughness, versatility, and yards-after-catch ability.

KC Concepcion, Texas A&M

Omar Cooper, Jr. – Indiana WR

Against Michigan State, Cooper gave the Spartans secondary problems with his size, physicality, and catch radius. He consistently used his frame to shield defenders and move the chains on key downs. When Indiana needed a possession catch or a sideline target, Cooper was the kind of receiver Mendoza trusted. His ability to turn contested throws into completions helped show why NFL scouts viewed him as a reliable outside target with red-zone upside.

Omar Cooper, Jr., Indiana

Jadarian Price – Notre Dame RB

Price brought a different style to the Irish backfield — powerful, punishing, and relentless. Against USC, Syracuse, and Navy, he consistently ran behind his pads and wore defenses down. Price excelled in short-yardage situations, moved piles after contact, and gave Notre Dame a dependable physical presence late in games.

Against Navy, his downhill style helped set the tone against a disciplined defense. Against Syracuse, he provided steady production between the tackles. Against USC, he delivered toughness in high-pressure rivalry moments. NFL teams love backs who can close games, and Price proved he can do exactly that.

Jadarian Price, Notre Dame

Notre Dame's Two-Back Punch

Few programs could match the combination of Love and Price. Love brought speed and explosive plays. Price brought power and finishing strength. Together, they gave Notre Dame one of the nation's most balanced rushing attacks and helped both players rise into first-round status.

Makai Lemon – USC WR

Against Notre Dame Fighting Irish football, Lemon showed polished route running, burst off the line, and natural hands. He consistently threatened vertically while also creating separation underneath.

Latinos in the 2026 NFL Draft: Draft Picks, Free Agents, and New Opportunities

LPL News Wire Staff | April 25, 2026

The 2026 NFL Draft was more than a football event — it was a showcase of the growing Latino presence across the sport. From first-round selections to late-round gems and undrafted free agents earning camp opportunities, Hispanic athletes continued to make their mark at nearly every position.

Fernando Mendoza (#15), Indiana

Fernando Mendoza made history as the No. 1 overall pick in the first round by the Las Vegas Raiders. A Latino quarterback being selected first overall carries major significance, as the quarterback position has historically seen limited Latino representation. Mendoza's rise offers inspiration to a new generation of young Hispanic athletes.

Akheem Mesidor went No. 22 overall in the first round to the Los Angeles Chargers, bringing power, explosiveness, and relentless energy as a pass rusher.

KC Concepcion was selected No. 24 overall by the Cleveland Browns after building a reputation as a versatile playmaker with toughness, speed, and yards-after-catch ability.

Jacob Rodriguez came off the board at No. 43 in the second round to the Miami Dolphins. Rodriguez was widely respected as an instinctive linebacker with leadership qualities and strong football IQ.

Fernando Carmona was chosen No. 142 in the fifth round by the Tennessee Titans, representing grit, discipline, and toughness in the trenches.

Josh Cuevas was selected No. 173 in the fifth round by the Baltimore Ravens after showcasing speed and open-field explosiveness.

Enrique Cruz, Jr. went No. 179 in the fifth round to the San Francisco 49ers, known for strength, consistency, and dependable line play.

Gabriel Rubio, Jr. was selected No. 210 in the sixth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers, bringing interior toughness and disruptive power.

But the celebration did not end when the draft concluded.

KC Concepcion, Texas A&M

Several notable Latino players quickly earned NFL opportunities through rookie minicamp invitations and free-agent contracts. Diego Pavia accepted a rookie minicamp invite with the Baltimore Ravens after a memorable college career built on toughness and leadership. Joey Aguilar received an invitation from the Jacksonville Jaguars following a standout season. Jaydn Ott signed with the Kansas City Chiefs, adding explosiveness to the backfield. Diego Pounds signed with the Ravens, while Bishop Fitzgerald joined the Tennessee Titans.

This was not just draft weekend — it was a visibility weekend.

From Mendoza becoming the face of a franchise, to late-round selections fighting for roster spots, to undrafted free agents chasing their dreams, Latino athletes showed they belong across every level of football.

Now their next chapter begins on Sundays.

Gabriel Rubio, Jr., Notre Dame

Full First Round

1. Las Vegas Raiders — Fernando Mendoza, QB, Indiana
2. New York Jets — David Bailey, EDGE, Texas Tech
3. Arizona Cardinals — Jeremiyah Love, RB, Notre Dame
4. Tennessee Titans — Carnell Tate, WR, Ohio State
5. New York Giants — Arvell Reese,LB, Ohio State
6. Kansas City Chiefs — Mansoor Delane, CB, LSU
7. Washington Commanders — Sonny Styles, LB, Ohio State
8. New Orleans Saints — Jordyn Tyson, WR, Arizona State
9. Cleveland Browns — Spencer Fano, OT, Utah
10. New York Giants — Francis Mauigoa, OT, Miami
11. Dallas Cowboys — Caleb Downs, S, Ohio State
12. Miami Dolphins — Kadyn Proctor, OT, Alabama
13. Los Angeles Rams — Ty Simpson, QB, Alabama
14. Baltimore Ravens — Olaivavega Ioane, OG, Penn State
15. Tampa Bay Buccaneers — Rueben Bain Jr., EDGE, Miami
16. New York Jets — Kenyon Sadiq, TE, Oregon
17. Detroit Lions — Blake Miller, OT, Clemson
18. Minnesota Vikings — Caleb Banks, DT, Florida
19. Carolina Panthers — Monroe Freeling, OT, Georgia
20. Philadelphia Eagles — Makai Lemon, WR, USC
21. Pittsburgh Steelers — Max Iheanachor, OT, Arizona State
22. Los Angeles Chargers — Akheem Mesidor, EDGE, Miami
23. Dallas Cowboys — Malachi Lawrence, EDGE, UCF
24. Cleveland Browns — KC Concepcion, WR, Texas A&M
25. Chicago Bears — Dillon Thieneman, S, Oregon
26. Houston Texans — Keylan Rutledge, OG, Georgia Tech
27. Miami Dolphins — Chris Johnson, CB, San Diego State
28. New England Patriots — Caleb Lomu, OT, Utah
29. Kansas City Chiefs — Peter Woods, DT, Clemson
30. New York Jets — Omar Cooper Jr., WR, Indiana
31. Tennessee Titans — Keldric Faulk, EDGE, Auburn
32. Seattle Seahawks — Jadarian Price, RB, Notre Dame

Michigan Spring Game Ends in Defensive Grind as Team Maize Edges Team Blue

Bryce Underwood (#19), University of Michigan

Jonathan Brown (#29), University of Michigan

By Aaron Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 18, 2026

ANN ARBOR, MI — Under chilly skies and threatening clouds, the Michigan Wolverines were able to avoid the rain Saturday afternoon and complete their annual spring football game in front of fans at Michigan Stadium.

While the weather cooperated, the offense did not.

Team Maize slipped past Team Blue, 7-6, in a scrimmage dominated by defense, physical line play, and limited explosive moments. The lone touchdown did not arrive until the closing stages, capping a contest that leaned heavily toward the defenders all afternoon.

Both sides struggled to establish rhythm offensively as quarterbacks faced steady pressure and rushing lanes were difficult to find. The result was a low-scoring battle that showcased tackling, pursuit, and discipline more than highlight-reel plays.

For the Wolverines coaching staff, however, spring games are less about style points and more about evaluation. Saturday offered another chance to assess depth across the roster, identify emerging contributors, and continue building toward the fall season.

Fans in attendance were still able to get an early glimpse of Michigan football in Ann Arbor, even if points were at a premium.

With spring practice now nearing its conclusion, attention turns to summer workouts and preparations for the 2026 campaign, where the Wolverines will look to turn defensive promise into another strong season.

H. Ka'aha'aina-Torres(#67), University of Michigan

Max Reyes (#39), University of Michigan

Tomas O'Meara (#36), University of Michigan

University of Michigan Fans

From Final Four to Forever: Michigan Crowns Magical Run with National Championship

By Larry Arreguin | LPL News Wire | April 6, 2026

SAN ANTONIO, TX — What began as a remarkable season turned into a championship legacy as the Michigan Wolverines men's basketball completed a stunning postseason run, first overpowering the Arizona Wildcats men's basketball 91-73 in the Final Four before finishing the job with a national championship victory over UConn Huskies men's basketball.

At the center of it all was Yaxel Lendeborg (#23), whose unforgettable season now stands among the greatest individual campaigns in Michigan basketball history.

Michigan Dominates Arizona to Reach Title Game

Michigan played one of its sharpest games of the season in the national semifinal, defeating Arizona 91-73 with balance, depth, and relentless execution.

The Wolverines shot 48 percent from the field, connected on 12 three-pointers, and dished out 22 assists in a complete team performance.

Aday Mara (#15) led the charge with 26 points on 11-of-16 shooting while adding nine rebounds and two blocks. Lendeborg added 11 points, three rebounds, and hit all three of his attempts from beyond the arc.

Elliot Cadeau (#3) controlled the tempo brilliantly with 13 points, 10 assists, and four steals, while Trey McKenney (#1) sparked the bench with 16 points, including four three-pointers.

Michigan's offense was crisp, its defense timely, and its confidence unmistakable.

Championship Night: Wolverines Finish the Mission

Two nights later, Michigan delivered once more, defeating UConn to capture the NCAA National Championship and cement one of the most memorable seasons in program history.

Cadeau again rose to the moment, scoring 19 points while going 8-of-9 from the free throw line. Lendeborg contributed 13 points and five made free throws, while Morez Johnson Jr. (#21) controlled the paint with 12 points and 10 rebounds for a championship double-double.

Though Michigan shot just 38 percent from the field and struggled from three-point range, the Wolverines dominated through toughness, rebounding, and poise at the foul line, converting 25-of-28 free throws.

That grit proved championship worthy.

Yaxel's Legacy Complete

For Lendeborg, the title adds the final jewel to a historic season that already included:

* Consensus First-Team All-American
* Riley Wallace Impact Transfer of the Year
* Wooden Award finalist
* Naismith Player of the Year finalist

Now, he adds national champion.

Known as the "Dominican LeBron," Lendeborg became the emotional and competitive heartbeat of Michigan's title run. Whether scoring, defending, rebounding, or leading, he delivered every time the Wolverines needed him most.

Playing for Something Bigger

Throughout the tournament, Lendeborg continued to draw strength from his mother, Yissel Raposo, who has been battling appendix cancer while undergoing chemotherapy. Her presence and support remained constant, including the now well-known signal—a distinct calling sound, like a bird chirp or kiss, that put him into "attack mode."

Alongside Raposo, his maternal grandfather "Papa" remained a core part of his support system during the championship run.

This title was won by a team—but for Lendeborg, it was also for family.

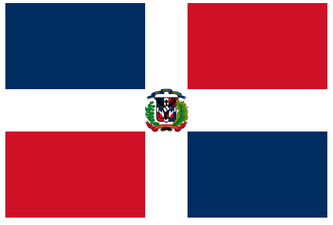
Champions Forever

Michigan entered March with expectations. It leaves April with a banner.

From the rout of Arizona to the final triumph over UConn, the Wolverines showed talent, toughness, and belief.

And now, they are champions.

Photos courtesy of UM Photography (page 1, 8-9, and page 15).



La Prensa Latina Congratulates Teresa Willis on Inspiring Achievement

Editorial Staff | LPL News Wire | April 27, 2026

FLINT, MI — The editorial staff of La Prensa Latina News Wire proudly congratulates Teresa Willis on earning her Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, from the University of Michigan–Flint College of Arts, Sciences, and Education—a milestone that reflects years of perseverance, sacrifice, and determination.

Teresa's journey to graduation is one defined by resilience. Life did not follow a traditional path, and along the way she faced profound hardship, including the loss of her mother at just 17 years old. Rather than allowing tragedy to define her future, Teresa found strength through faith and transformed adversity into motivation.

After leaving high school at 16, she later made the courageous decision to return and complete her education, proving early on that setbacks do not have to be permanent. At 18, Teresa became a mother, and over the years she raised four children while continuing to pursue both her associate's degree and later her bachelor's degree.

Balancing motherhood, academics, and personal growth was no easy task, yet Teresa remained committed to creating a brighter future for herself and her family. She credits her children as her greatest inspiration, motivating her to continue growing, to break generational cycles, and to become the kind of mother and woman they can admire.

Looking ahead, Teresa plans to become a therapist and eventually open her own wellness center dedicated to helping families through mental health services, physical wellness, and holistic nutrition.

From all of us at La Prensa Latina News Wire, congratulations to Teresa Willis on this outstanding accomplishment. Your story is a testament to faith, perseverance, and the power of never giving up.

If you have a loved one graduating this spring, let us know so we can recognize them in our upcoming June Edition of La Prensa Latina News Wire.

NOSOTROS HABLAMOS
TU IDIOMA
NotreDameFCU.com/LANSING
500 E Michigan Avenue, Ste 120 Lansing, MI 48912 · 517-512-6350
NOTRE DAME
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Insured by NCUA